

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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1973-74 DUCK STAMP TO FEATURE STELLER'S EIDERS

The 1973-74 Federal Duck Stamp will show two Steller's eiders standing on a rocky Arctic shore, the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service announced today. The winning entry, a full color wash drawing, was created by artist Lee LeBlanc, 59, of Iron River, Mich.

LeBlanc operates a wildlife art studio in Iron River and a wildlife art gallery in Minocqua, Wisc. He has entered the duck stamp contest three times, capturing second place last year.

Second place this year went to Gary A. Lucy of New Haven, Mo., who drew wood ducks, and third place was won by David A. Maas of Waterville, Minn., who drew Barrow's goldeneye.

Steller's eiders, which inhabit western Alaska and eastern Siberia, will be appearing on the duck stamp for the first time.

Bureau officials said a record 249 entries were received in the 24th Federal Duck Stamp event. Artists from 33 States competed in the contest.

Selection was based on anatomical accuracy, artistic composition, and suitability for engraving. The winner receives no financial prize--just the honor and recognition of having his drawing appear on the duck stamp.

Judges were Larry Jahn of the Wildlife Management Institute, Fred Evenden of the Wildlife Society, Jack A. Brownridge of the National Wildlife Federation, Carl Scheele of the Smithsonian Institution, and Edward Felver of the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

(OVER)

A new duck stamp is issued each year by the U.S. Postal Service. The 1973-74 stamp will go on sale July 1, 1973. Every migratory waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must purchase this stamp with a State hunting license. All revenue from duck stamps, except the cost of printing and distribution, is used for acquisition of wetlands for waterfowl.

Information on other designs since the stamps were first issued in 1934 is contained in "Duck Stamp Data," a publication available for 30 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

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Glossy prints of the winning design are available to editors only from the Office of Conservation Education, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.